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NEWS RELEASE

March 27, 2008

Contact: Megan Harrington, Montana World Trade Center, 406-243-5850, megan@mwtc.org.

TRADE CENTER WELCOMES EDMONTON DEVELOPMENT GROUP

MISSOULA –

In an effort to bolster trade between Montana and Alberta, the Montana World Trade Center at The University of Montana will host a luncheon seminar with the Edmonton Economic Development Corp. on Wednesday, April 2.

The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the MonTEC Building conference room, located at 1121 E. Broadway. One-on-one meetings are available from 1 to 3:30 p.m. by calling 406-243-5850.

The seminar, including lunch, costs \$10 for MWTC and Montana Environmental and Engineering Consortium members. It is \$20 for the general public. RSVP by calling Megan Harrington at 406-243-5850 or e-mailing megan@mwtc.org. Call by March 31 to reserve a spot. (No-shows will still be billed; cancellations are required by April 1.)

Canada is Montana's No. 1 trading partner, and Edmonton is the international gateway to the oil- and gas-producing regions of Alberta. The incredible growth in the oil sands has had major impacts on all sectors of the economy there, and the region is in need of an array of products and services to keep up with demand.

Featured presenters will be Amanda Babichuk, EEDC investment attraction manager for U.S. markets, and Susan Pekonen, EEDC manager of industry and cluster development for architecture, engineering and construction.

Babichuk will address the economic outlook for Alberta, focusing on Edmonton and the oil sands region. She will discuss the development of the oil sands and the growth impact on other industries in Alberta.

Pekonen will speak about opportunities for environmental and engineering services, as well as other industries such as agri-foods and forestry. She also will speak about green building projects in Edmonton.

MWTC is a UM program operating in cooperation with universities throughout Montana. It helps state businesses establish or strengthen their international commercial capabilities.

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